

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Phil Alperson provided the following updates:
 - August 8, 2008 -- NNMCM released its Draft Master Plan Update and Transportation Management Plan (MP/TMP). They are posted on the WALTER REED/EIS PAGE of the County's BRAC web site.

The current NNMCM Master Plan was completed in 1990. The purpose of updating the existing Master Plan is to address future anticipated development, including BRAC expansion mandated by law in 2005 establishing the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. The Draft Master Plan includes a Transportation Management Plan and will be finalized by the Navy later in 2008 after public hearings by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the County's Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC).

According to Shahriar Etemadi, the Planning Board will meet late October or November to discuss the MP/TMP. The National Capital Planning Commission will hold hearings approximately one month later.

- MDOT recently announced a deferral of certain BRAC-related funding. A report on the Committee's discussion of this matter appears later in this summary.
- An Environmental Assessment on BRAC and Master Plan activities at the Walter Reed Forest Glen Annex was released on August 14. The EA and the County Executive's response are posted on the HOME PAGE of the BRAC web site.
- MC-DOT has prepared a draft OEA funding request for a Pedestrian/Bikeways Facilities Study. The request is based on the Committee deliberations that produced the paths map that is posted on the web site. OEA has requested revisions to the Draft before it will be submitted officially. These revisions should be completed in the near future.
- On Friday, August 1, the full House of Representatives passed the FY2009 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, which includes language that strongly supports our Defense Access Road funding request:

Traffic Impacts at BRAC-Affected Installations.--The Committee is concerned about the potential for increased traffic congestion at the new military medical facility to be constructed in Bethesda, Maryland through the Base Realignment and Closure process. The Committee supports the responsible commander's decision to request certification for two projects under the Defense Access Roads (DAR) program, and urges the Department to expeditiously review this request.

The Committee also directs the Department of Defense to proactively identify all other necessary transportation improvements at BRAC-affected installations that may be eligible for DAR certification. When environmental impact statements identify specific projects that are needed, the Committee directs the Department to ensure that a needs report is generated and reviewed as expeditiously as possible. The Committee further directs the Department to aggressively plan and budget for DAR-certified projects arising from BRAC actions.

- The FY09 Defense Appropriations bill is one of the few FY09 spending bills that may be passed and signed into law in time for the beginning of the Fiscal Year (which begins October 1). Congressman Van Hollen is working on an outside chance of adding some funding for Bethesda transportation projects to that bill.
- **NNMC UPDATES:** Ollie Oliveria observed that construction continues to move quickly and efficiently. Problems have been relatively few, but action has been swift to correct those that have arisen, including the firing of a trucking contractor that violated some of the rules regarding environmental controls and intrusion on neighborhoods. Ollie introduced Rear Admiral Cindy Dullea, Deputy Commander of Navy Medicine National Capital Area, who along with Captain Daniel Zinder, Deputy Commander of NNMC, stressed NNMC's commitment to working with the community during construction and a desire to maintain positive communications over the long term. Ollie and Jeff Miller discussed the timetable for completion of the Master Plan, which is still a Draft document at this point. Once complete, it will be submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission. Ollie requested the Committee members transmit their comments to him within the next two weeks.
- **COMMUNITY UPDATES:** Ilaya Hopkins reported that the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors continues to reach out to neighborhoods beyond the immediate NNMC vicinity. The Coalition is also reaching out to elected officials. Regarding the SHA Technical Paper on the Beltway Slip Ramp that was presented at the July BIC meeting, the Coalition believes the Slip Ramp merits continued consideration and that the Paper requires further scrutiny; however, the Coalition understands that top priority should be placed on short term projects to meet the traffic demands that will be a result of the opening of the expanded military medical center in 2011.
- **PARK & PLANNING ON MP/TMP:** Shahriar Etemadi and Chuck Kines discussed Park & Planning staff's initial reactions to the NNMC Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan (MP/TMP). While they find the MP/TMP to be satisfactory generally, there were concerns about the parking ratio not complying with NCPC 1:3 standards, and other aspects of the TMP. *The detailed PowerPoint presentation is on the web site following this meeting summary.*

At the July Committee meeting, John Carman encouraged Committee members to transmit comments on the MP/TMP to Phil. Janet Maalouf and John Carman did so prior to the Sept 16th meeting; John repeated his request so that Phil could share them with

Ollie Oliveria as NNMC prepares its Final version of the MP/TMP. In addition, Phil will prepare a draft letter to the County Executive conveying the Committee's recommendations, which the Committee can finalize at its October meeting. ***All comments received will be placed on the web site following this meeting summary.***

- **SHA ON FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS:**

- Andy Scott of MDOT provided a three-year breakdown of the timetable for design and construction of the intersections project. He also discussed the recently announced deferral of \$1.1 billion in funds budgeted for transportation projects in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) through FY2013. ***A detailed memo prepared by MDOT is on the web site following this meeting summary.*** In addition, detailed information about this issue can be found on the BRAC web site's NEWS PAGE in articles dated September 11, 2008 (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac). The bulk of the deferred funds are designated for construction, and MDOT hopes to restore that funding in time for the construction phase to begin.
- Dennis Yoder of SHA introduced traffic projection and project design specialists who are working on the intersections project. ***Detailed presentations prepared by SHA planners are on the web site following this meeting summary.*** Matt Snare presented a computer simulation of how traffic conditions would be affected when BRAC takes effect in 2011 if no improvements were made to the intersections. Barb Solberg and Christina Lavoie presented a much appreciated timeline and geological schematics for the project.

It is anticipated that the project will reach a 30% design threshold in winter 2008-2009. At that point, SHA will solicit public input and begin procedure that will precede construction. While SHA is not in a position to predict how the project will be built at each intersection, the intention is to be able to address traffic conditions anticipated in September 2011 with cost-effective solutions, rather than to make greater long-term improvements which could be addressed at a later date. It is also not the intention to remove houses although SHA could not ensure that this wouldn't happen.

SHA has provided these additional details: As for the 30% threshold, SHA has several major milestones for projects. They are:

- Preliminary Investigation (P.I.) at 30%
- Semi-Final Review (S.F.) at 65%
- Final Review (F.R.) at 75%-80%
- Plans, Specs, Estimate (PS&E) at 95%

There are some others but these are the four biggest milestones. For each milestone, SHA is required to have certain information. At the 30% stage, SHA is required to have all of its alignments set, both vertical and horizontal. SHA is

required to have proposed right of way established. SHA is required to have a maintenance-of-traffic concept. SHA needs to determine all of its impacts so that they can determine how much right of way they need, how many utility impacts there are, how many environmental impacts there are, etc. Knowing these impacts also helps SHA develop a more realistic estimate. After SHA knows those impacts, SHA progresses toward S.F. (65%). SHA starts to develop right of way plats. SHA begins its permitting process for its environmental impacts. SHA starts coordinating with utility companies. Any changes to the concepts, i.e. adding or removing lanes, sidewalks, medians, etc. would change the right of way, the utility impacts, the environmental impacts, etc, which ultimately will delay the projects. SHA tries very hard not to change the concept after P.I. because it could have significant impacts on the schedule.

Once the P.I. plans are developed, SHA holds a P.I. meeting with the design team. At this meeting SHA actually walks the project limits, with plans in hand, looking for things that may have been missed in the design process. For the Bethesda intersections, SHA anticipates having its P.I. meeting(s) any time between November 2008 and January 2009 (in a few months). SHA is hoping to have all the P.I. meetings at the same time, but some intersections are moving forward quicker than others.

- John Carman solicited comments from the audience. Questions and comments focused on the intersections project, particularly on the potential impacts on neighborhoods.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. at the BCC Services Center.

Committee members in attendance, September 16, 2008:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
 Stan Schiff and Ed Krauze for Jon Alterman, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association
 John Carman, Committee Chairman
 Dave Dabney, Bethesda Urban Partnership
 Shahriar Etemadi, MNCPPC
 Chuck Floyd
 Gary Erenrich for Edgar Gonzalez, MCDOT
 Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Assn.
 George Milne, Stone Ridge School
 Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
 Michael Plantamura, Chevy Chase View
 Andy Scott, MDOT
 Geoff Biddle for David M. Smith, Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board
 Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Intergovernmental Relations
 Dennis Coleman for Dan Wheeland, NIH

Dennis Yoder, SHA/MDOT

Ex-officio:

Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)

Michael Parsons for Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)

Delegate Bill Bronrott

Delegate Al Carr

Miti Figueredo (Council Member Roger Berliner)

David "Ollie" Oliveria, NNMC BRAC Program Manager

Capt. Daniel Zinder, Deputy Commander NNMC

Rear Admiral Cindy Dullea, Deputy Commander, Navy Medicine National Capital Area

Jeff Miller, NNMC Transportation Program Manager

Other attendees

Dawn Chaikin

Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration

Jan Clark, USUHS

Tom Doerr, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee

Cyrena Eitler, DOD OEA

Ellyn Goldkind, NCPC

Leslie Hamm, BCC Regional Services Center

Brian Hillis, NNMC

Diana Jackson, MD DBED

Kristi Kelly, JTF CapMed

Juvonnie Kinchen-Schneider, NNMC

Chuck Kines, MNCPPC

Christina Lavoie, SHA

Paul McComb, NNMC

Gary Rentsch

Ralph Schofer

Matt Snare, SHA

Barb Solberg, SHA

Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Assn.

Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers

Julie Woepke, MD DBED, Office of Military and Federal Affairs

Louis Yanni